

## **SOP 10 - Fires and Explosions**

### **A. General Procedures**

1. Alert other laboratory personnel and send for assistance.
2. Attack the fire immediately if it is small; avoid entrapment by always fighting a fire from a position accessible to an exit.
3. Notify the fire department and activate the emergency alarm system.
4. Confine the emergency (close hood sashes, doors between laboratories, and fire doors) to prevent the further spread of fire.
5. Assist injured personnel.
6. Evacuate the building to prevent further danger to personnel.

### **B. Fire Extinguishing Agents**

#### **1. Fire Extinguishers**

- a. Class A - ordinary combustible solids such as wood and paper.
- b. Class B - petroleum hydrocarbons and volatile flammable solvents.
- c. Class C - electrical equipment.
- d. Class D - combustible or reactive metals, metal hydrides, or organometallics.

### **C. Fire Hoses and Automatic Extinguishing Systems**

1. At present, the Location does not have buildings equipped with either fire hoses or automatic fire extinguishing systems.
2. If fire hoses or automatic fire extinguishing systems are installed in Location facilities, employees will be trained in their usage, maintenance, inspection, and other pertinent features.

### **D. Fire Blankets**

1. Should be used for prevention of shock after burning clothing has been extinguished.
2. Not recommended for extinguishing clothing fires, because blankets tend to hold in heat and increase the severity of burns.
3. Dropping to the floor and rolling, or using the safety shower are the two recommended method of extinguishing clothing fires.